

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mass. LICENSING BOARD

FOR THE

CITY OF BOSTON

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1930



4

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF LICENSING

December 1, 1930.

To His Excellency FRANK G. ALLEN, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Sir:—The Licensing Board for the City of Boston respectfully submits its twenty-fifth annual report covering the year ending November 30, 1930.

PERSONNEL OF THE BOARD

DAVID T. MONTAGUE, *Chairman*, ARTHUR J. SELFRIDGE, MARY E. DRISCOLL, constitute the present Board. Miss Driscoll was reappointed and confirmed in May, 1930.

FINANCIAL

Receipts and disbursements for the year ending November 30, 1930.

Miscellaneous licenses.	\$52,656 00	
Liquor licenses	2,352 00	
Miscellaneous receipts	263 20	
		\$55,271 20
Expenses of the Board, salaries, rent, light, etc.		31,842 36
Excess receipts over expenditures.		\$23,428 84

LICENSES GRANTED BY THE BOARD

1. Third-class liquor, retail druggists	252
2. Fourth-class liquor, wholesale dealers	7
3. Fifth-class, industrial alcohol	1
4. Soft drinks	2,504
5. Innholders and common victualers	2,661
6. Lodging houses	3,532
7. Intelligence offices	162
8. Sale of firearms	15
9. Billiard and pool tables and bowling alleys	304
10. Ferris wheels and merry-go-rounds	2
11. Picnic groves	2
12. Sunday sale of ice cream, confectionery, soda water and fruit	2,337
13. Entertainment, required by Chap. 299, Acts of 1926	169

Total number of applications acted on during the year:

Granted,	11,948
Rejected,	302
	12,250

The Board has held 528 formal hearings during the year in addition to many informal conferences.

HEARINGS

KIND OF LICENSE	NUMBER	ACTION TAKEN
Third-class druggists	3	Revoked
Third-class druggists	5	Granted after a hearing
Third-class druggists	2	Rejected after a hearing
Innholders	1	Dismissed
Innholders	3	Placed on file, cautioned
Innholders	3	Rejected after a hearing
Common victualers	35	Revoked
Common victualers	8	Revoked (sentence suspended)
Common victualers	2	Suspended 1 month
Common victualers	3	Suspended 2 weeks
Common victualers	13	Suspended 1 week
Common victualers	1	Suspended 4 days
Common victualers	4	Suspended 3 days
Common victualers	3	Suspended 1 day
Common victualers	2	Suspended balance of license year
Common victualers	18	Placed on file, cautioned
Common victualers	18	Granted after a hearing
Common victualers	19	Rejected after a hearing
Common victualers	14	Dismissed
Common victualers	9	Restricted
Common victualers	7	Miscellaneous, cautioned
Fruit, etc.	18	Revoked
Fruit, etc.	5	Revoked (sentence suspended)
Fruit, etc.	5	Suspended 1 month
Fruit, etc.	1	Suspended 3 weeks
Fruit, etc.	7	Suspended 2 weeks
Fruit, etc.	6	Suspended 1 week
Fruit, etc.	3	Suspended 2 days
Fruit, etc.	1	Suspended balance of license year
Fruit, etc.	19	Placed on file, cautioned
Fruit, etc.	9	Granted after a hearing
Fruit, etc.	10	Rejected after a hearing
Fruit, etc.	5	Dismissed
Billiard, etc.	5	Revoked
Billiard, etc.	1	Revoked (sentence suspended)
Billiard, etc.	2	Placed on file
Billiard, etc.	2	Granted after a hearing
Billiard, etc.	6	Rejected after a hearing
Billiard, etc.	1	Suspended 2 weeks
Billiard, etc.	1	Suspended 1 week
Billiard, etc.	4	Dismissed
Lodging houses	20	Revoked
Lodging houses	31	Revoked (sentence suspended)
Lodging houses	13	Placed on file, cautioned
Lodging houses	2	Granted after a hearing
Lodging houses	4	Rejected after a hearing
Lodging houses	33	Dismissed
Lodging houses	3	Restricted
Lodging houses	2	Restrictions removed
Lodging houses	2	Cautioned
Soft drinks	20	Revoked
Soft drinks	9	Revoked (sentence suspended)
Soft drinks	5	Suspended 1 month
Soft drinks	1	Suspended 3 weeks
Soft drinks	7	Suspended 2 weeks
Soft drinks	6	Suspended 1 week
Soft drinks	1	Suspended balance of license year

KIND OF LICENSE	NUMBER	ACTION TAKEN
Soft drinks	23	Placed on file, cautioned
Soft drinks	11	Granted after a hearing
Soft drinks	12	Rejected after a hearing
Soft drinks	7	Dismissed
Intelligence offices	3	Placed on file, cautioned
Intelligence offices	1	Granted after a hearing
Entertainment, etc.	7	Granted after a hearing
Entertainment, etc.	1	Rejected after a hearing
Entertainment, etc.	2	Dismissed
Entertainment, etc.	5	Revoked
Entertainment, etc.	2	Revoked (revocation suspended)
Entertainment, etc.	1	Placed on file, cautioned
Entertainment, etc.	3	Suspended 1 week
Entertainment, etc.	2	Suspended 1 month
Entertainment, etc.	1	Restricted
Entertainment, etc.	4	Miscellaneous, cautioned
	528	

NOTE.—In 53 cases the Board suspended the license for a definite term and on the termination of the suspension the license was revoked but the revocation suspended.

TABLE 1.—LIQUOR

The following is a classified list of the licenses in force November 30, 1930:

Fourth-class dealer ,	4	Fifth-class license,	1
Fourth-class druggist,	3	Third-class druggist,	228
			236

Number of Licenses Issued and Amount Paid into the Treasury from December 1, 1929, to December 1, 1930

4 fourth-class dealers, at \$300	\$1,200 00
3 fourth-class druggists, at \$300	900 00
251 third-class druggists, at \$1	251 00
1 fifth-class license, at \$1	1 00
Total	\$2,352 00

Liquor licenses are issued under the Massachusetts Liquor Law subject to Federal laws and regulations. The fee for a third and a fifth-class license is fixed by statute at one dollar.

TABLE 2.—COMMON VICTUALERS AND INNOLDERS

Common Victualers

Applications granted	2,603
Places licensed	2,195
Canceled:	
Surrendered	303
For non-payment	70
	373
Rejected	67
Revoked	35
Transferred	60
Fees collected ^{1 2}	\$12,670 00

Of the licenses granted, 43 were for dining cars, 31 of which are in actual operation.

¹ 1 (1930) license unpaid.

² 1 license paid twice.

Innholders

Applications granted	58	
Places licensed	53	
Canceled:		
Surrendered	5	
Rejected	3	
Fees collected		\$290 00

The fee fixed by Statute is not to exceed \$5.

TABLE 3.—BILLIARD, POOL AND SIPPIC TABLES AND BOWLING ALLEYS

Applications granted	265	
Clubs	39	
		304
Places licensed	231	
Places licensed (clubs)	39	
Canceled:		
Surrendered	12	
For non-payment	8	
		20
Rejected	18	
Revoked	5	
Transferred	5	
Withdrawn	10	
Additional	7	
Reconsidered and rejected	2	

Number of Tables and Alleys

Billiards	302
Pool	1,189
Bowling alleys	739
Canceled for non-payment	11

8 Billiard, 24 Pool, 13 Bowling Alleys.

Fees collected	\$10,925 00
--------------------------	-------------

The fee established by the Board is \$5 for each table and alley.

TABLE 4.—INTELLIGENCE OFFICES

Applications granted	162	
Places licensed	140	
Canceled:		
Surrendered	Class 1—2	
For non-payment	Class 1—7	
	Class 2—3	
	Class 3—1	
		13
Transfers granted	9	
Fees collected ¹		\$7,903 00

Of the applications granted

84 were first class, \$6,300

63 were second-class, 2,205

15 were third class, 30

The fee established by the Board is \$75 for a first-class license; \$35 for a second-class license; and \$2 for a third-class license.

9 licensed places hold two classes of licenses.

¹ 1 Class 1 license reconsidered and rejected.

TABLE 5.—PICNIC GROVES

Applications granted	2
Places licensed	2
Withdrawn	1
Fees collected	\$10 00

The fee established by the Board is \$5.

TABLE 6.—SUNDAY SALE OF ICE CREAM, CONFECTIONERY, SODA WATER OR FRUIT

Applications granted	2,337
Places licensed	2,063
Canceled:	
Surrendered	192
For non-payment	64
	256
Rejected	55
Transferred	89
Transfers rejected	5
Withdrawn	55
Revoked	18
Fees collected ^{1 2}	\$11,355 00

The fee fixed by Statute is not to exceed \$5.

¹ 3 licenses unpaid.² Unpaid license 1929, paid.

TABLE 7—LODGING HOUSES

Applications granted	3,532
Places licensed	3,171
Canceled:	
Surrendered	271
For non-payment	70
	341
Rejected	98
Revoked	20
Transferred	84
Withdrawn	2
Fees collected ¹	\$6,926 00

The fee established by the City is \$2.

¹ 1 license paid twice.

TABLE 8.—MERRY-GO-ROUND, FERRIS WHEELS, ETC.

Applications granted	2
Places licensed	2
Fees collected	\$22 00

The fee established by the Board is \$1 for each class for each day licensed.

TABLE 9.—RETAIL VENDORS OF SOFT DRINKS

Applications granted	2,504
Places licensed	2,217
Canceled:	
Surrendered	207
For non-payment	59
	263
Rejected ¹	42
Revoked	20
Transfers granted	84
Transfers rejected	3
Withdrawn	75
Fees collected ^{2 3}	\$2,445 00

The fee is established by law, not to exceed \$1.

¹ 1 license reconsidered and rejected.² 1 unpaid license.³ 1 license paid twice.

TABLE 10.—FIREARMS

Applications granted	15
Places licensed	14
Canceled:	
For non-payment	1
Fees collected	\$70 00
The fee established by the Board is \$5.	

TABLE 11.—ENTERTAINMENT, ETC.

Applications granted:	Innholders	20
	Common victualers	140
	Soft drinks	8
	Club	1
Canceled:		
Surrendered	Innholders	2
	Common victualers	16
Non-payment	Soft drinks	1
Rejected	Common victualers	12
Revoked	Common victualers	7
Transferred	Common victualers	3
Places in operation		143
Fees collected		\$40 00

TABLE 12.—MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS

Recording fees	\$259 00
Sale of Firearms books	4 20
Total amount received and paid into the treasury on account of miscellaneous licenses and receipts	\$52,919 20

TABLE 13.—HOLDERS OF LICENSES ARRANGED ACCORDING TO NATIVITY

	Lodging Houses	Common Victualers	Inn- holders	Retail Vendors of Soft Drinks	Fruit, Ice Cream, etc.	Fire- arms
Albanian	7	56	—	66	64	—
American	1,586	1,106	66	690	601	8
Arabian	—	2	—	—	—	—
Armenian	13	36	—	123	127	—
Austrian	8	21	—	17	17	—
Belgian	8	1	—	—	—	—
Canadian	742	139	3	73	53	—
Chinese	—	24	—	1	—	—
Cuban	1	—	—	—	—	—
Czecho-Slav	5	—	—	—	—	—
Danish	4	3	—	1	1	—
Dutch	2	—	—	3	4	—
English	130	31	—	43	41	1
Finnlander	5	2	—	1	1	—
French	21	4	1	2	2	—
German	28	32	—	22	20	—
Grecian	22	354	—	163	169	—
Hungarian	2	1	—	1	1	—
Irish	532	80	—	123	128	—
Italian	28	275	1	514	458	3
Japanese	1	1	—	—	—	—
Lithuanian	8	17	—	47	44	—
Mexican	—	—	—	1	1	—
Norwegian	9	4	—	3	4	—
Polish	56	27	—	49	46	—
Porto Rican	—	—	—	1	1	—
Portuguese	11	10	—	14	11	—
Roumanian	4	8	—	9	10	—
Russian	48	356	1	449	450	2
Scotch	63	10	—	9	7	1
South American	1	1	—	—	—	—
Spanish	1	5	—	2	2	—
Swedish	84	21	—	6	6	—
Swiss	1	3	—	1	—	—
Syrian	151	36	—	97	93	—
Turkish	9	25	—	35	36	—
Ukrainian	—	1	—	1	1	—
Welsh	1	—	—	—	—	—
West Indies	29	5	—	1	1	—
	3,621	2,697	72	2,568	2,400	15

EXPENDITURES FROM DECEMBER 1, 1929, TO DECEMBER 1, 1930

Personal Service

Commissioners, Secretary and Permanent Employees	\$24,786 79
Temporary employees	618 57

Services Other than Personal

Printing and binding	\$134 88
Light	208 44
Rent	4,500 00
Communication	325 99
Cleaning	10 62
Investigation, etc.	54 75
General plant repairs	60 60

Equipment

Office	\$147 63
Library	19 75

Supplies

Office	\$939 48
Food and ice	33 06
Laundry, cleaning, etc.	1 80

Total	\$31,842 36
-----------------	-------------

LICENSES IN GENERAL

All applications for licenses are referred to the Police Department for investigation and a report, which is made in writing giving reasons for disapproval and in some cases for approval. The Board also requires new applicants for liquor, intelligence office, pool and bowling, entertainment and lunch cart licenses to appear before the Board prior to the granting of a license.

Applicants for booths or for dancing must present a plan showing the location and character of the proposed booths or the space for dancing, a copy of which plan is filed with the Board. Booths must be open and not over four feet six inches high.

If the police report on an application is unfavorable or if there are objections to the granting of a license, a hearing is held.

All applications for lodging houses which the Building Department has not already reported as being properly equipped with fire escapes or other safety devices required by law are referred to that department for its report.

The Board endeavors to grant no license the exercise of which is likely to cause a nuisance to others and that no license already issued is so exercised as to become a nuisance.

The Board welcomes information from any source concerning its licensees.

LEGISLATION

The only change in the laws relating to the licenses granted by the Board was Chapter 117 of the Acts of 1930, which forbids the conducting of an employment office for seamen without an intelligence office license.

The referendum repeal of the so-called Baby Volstead Act did not occur during the 1930 fiscal year and consequently what effect, if any, the repeal of this Act will have on the work of the Board is for the future to determine.

ENTERTAINMENT LICENSES

Chapter 299 of the Acts of 1926

Hotels and restaurants which furnish music, dancing or other forms of entertainment in their dining rooms are now required to have a special license which brings the hours and character of the entertainment under the control of the Board.

Wonder or criticism is sometimes expressed by visitors to the city and by residents that the hours of entertainment are restricted and that dancing is not allowed on Sunday or during the early hours of Monday morning. The Board is of the opinion, however, that the laws and its rules in that behalf are liberal enough.

LODGING OR ROOMING HOUSES

It is estimated that more than 50,000 people live in buildings or apartments licensed as lodging houses. Many of these are young people without family oversight and the guarding of their physical and moral safety is very important. A lodging house license should be a badge of the respectability of the proprietor and that the premises are sanitary and suitable for the purpose.

The Board receives few complaints in proportion to the number of these houses and believes that with few exceptions, the proprietors are respectable and worthy people and their houses well conducted.

GAMBLING DEVICES

According to police reports, there has been a great increase, during the past year, in gambling by the writing of so-called lottery, policy, clearing house and pool slips or numbers. This form of gambling is forbidden by law and the Board warns its licensees that they must not engage in it or permit it on licensed premises. Licensees are repeatedly urged by salesmen of slot machine concerns to place their machines in licensed premises, claiming that the machine is not a gambling device. The Board believes that a machine which carries any combination of colors, pictures, or devices, or gives slugs or other tokens with or instead of merchandise, is a potential gambling menace and requests licensees not to allow them on licensed premises.

SUNDAY FRUIT, ETC., LICENSES

In addition to the four articles covered by this form of license, namely: fruit, ice cream, confectionery and soft drinks, and articles covered by other provisions of law, these licensees are now permitted by law to sell bread on Sunday during the same hours that bakers are permitted to sell their products. The sale by these licensees on Sunday of other bakery products would be a convenience in some sections of the city and in the opinion of the Board the law might well be made more liberal in this behalf.

GENERAL MATTERS

Complaints for violation of law or of the terms of a license are usually made by the Police, but sometimes by City departments, Federal authorities and individuals. Public hearings are held on all complaints that purport to be sustained by evidence.

At all hearings any persons interested may appear with counsel, and if a person has no counsel, the Board endeavors to safeguard his or her rights and see to it that the whole truth is brought out. Nothing in the nature of a penalty is imposed without a hearing.

The Board has harmonious and satisfactory relations with the Police Department, City departments and with the Federal authorities.

DAVID T. MONTAGUE,
ARTHUR J. SELFRIDGE,
MARY E. DRISCOLL,

Licensing Board for the City of Boston.

